

PATENT

Atty Docket No. 1113-011/MMM

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are in the application. Claims 1, 10, 11, 13, and 14 are in independent form. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are allowed.

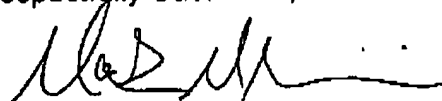
Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) for anticipation by US patent application no. 2003/0030729 of Prentice et al. Applicants traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Prentice et al. was filed October 21, 2002. The present application was filed April 15, 1999. A reference constitutes prior art under 35 USC 102(e) to an application only if the reference has a filing date earlier than the filing date of the application. The Prentice et al. filing date of October 21, 2002 is after the April 15, 1999 filing date of the present application. As a result, Prentice et al. is not prior art to the present application. Applicants request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 10-14 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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